Dear Paul, 3/7/98

Thanks for your card and your note of the 4th, along with the Miami Herald Bay of Pigs report story and the page on the Kennedy tapes.

It is possible the Herald delayed the story long enough to get and read the report for itself. If that is not true, that record is much better than the record of the Washington Post, which has done no story on it at all! Is it not to wonder why? (AP did more a story that was in our local paper.)

What the editors wrote about Corona and the U-2, alleging secrecy for the latter, is incorrect. The USSR knew all about it, as the CIA knew. You find this in detail in a book by Dino Brugioni, who was with the CIA's NPIC. I think the title is Cuba on the Brink but I'm not sure, as I am of the author's name. (covered all to Eye Ball)

Some years ago I'd planned a book, Tiger to Ride, and when I did not get to writing it, loaned the research to a young friend for a college thesis. He did not return all of it but what he did return I still have. Only it is not organized as I'd had it. I did make my own analysis of The Bay of Pigs and in the Herald story I find a little I take to confirm what I'd believed. It quotes Bissell as saying "that 'there was solid reason to believe that it had a good chance of at least initial success." Now, what kind of success is only "initial" success if no more than that means getting beaten?

My belief always was that the CIA hope only for a beachhead it could hold long enough to proclaim recognition of a government in exile. That would have been possible if there had been only "initial" success.

There was no chance at all of any general uprising against Castro, no chance at all with the vast changes he had brought about for the ordinary people that they wanted him out, replaced.

Maybe those right-wing nuts in the CIA expected what they wanted to happen but there was no chance of it and no decent analyst would have considered it at all possible. They just hoped and wanted their hope to become the reality, but with the vast changes for the average Cuban there was no possibility at all,

Power can lead to enormous self-deceptions. Such as expecting an uprising in Cuba. For all the hardships they are now suffering I doubt that there is much possibility of it now. In the Operation Mongoose papers and commentary on it, it was recognized then that there would not be any such uprising, and any US invasion was to have been only if there was such an uprising and if it looked as though it might grow into something.

Just before Kennedy was killed he had approved an a effort to see if there could be a way for us to get along with them. He was to have met on that with his emissary on that project, Ambassador William Attwood. But when JFK got

back from Cuba Dallas he was a corpse, not a President.

Attwood testified to this to thw Church committee and the ARRB has forced its disclosure as an assassination record. The Cuban end was Carlos Lechuga, who was then Castro's ambassador to the UN. The feeler was through Lisa Howard, of ABC News and to facilitate talk in orivate she held a party at which they could slip away and talk. Lechuga wrote a small book on it that The Last Murrah has. I think he titl ed it In the Eye of the Storm.

JFK also asked the then respect French journalist, Jean Daniel, who was going to interview Castro, to feel him out and return and report on the impression he got. Daniel was with Castro when Castro got the news of the assassination. He wrote a series of article that in this country The New Republic carried.

Had that come to pass it would have come close to putting the CIA out of business.

The Herald story seems fair and balanced to me, although what gives it balance is plain b.s. from those responsible for the fiasco.

Sure sounds crazy when we had diplomatic relations with the then USSR and among other countries, China.

Many thanks and best wishes,

Harold